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## REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS

Students of French art will find "Watteau," by Edgcumbe Staley, recently published by the Macmillan Company, one of the most acceptable volumes of the Great Masters in Painting and Sculpture Series. The school of painting commonly known as "Les Peintres des Fêtes Gallantes" has had an ever-growing fascination for the art-loving public, and as a consequence the cabinets and galleries of collectors are being more and more enriched, not merely with pictures and drawings, but with decorative furniture, porcelain, and all sorts of *objets d'art* representative of the work of Watteau and his followers. The author of the book here noticed has undertaken the task of throwing light upon the work of the creators of these treasures and to impart as much information as possible about the people and the life of those gay times and scenes in which Watteau was the idol of the French élite public.

Mr. Staley comes to the work prepared by previous study and research for the duties involved in it. He traces the life of Watteau and the development of his art, from his first early years through the periods of his residence in Paris and London, describes his triumphs and successes, and concludes with a well-digested appreciation of the artist's work. Watteau, naturally, forms the major part of the volume, but the author supplements his discussion of the master with a succinct résumé of the achievements of seventeen of his followers.

The volume, therefore, is not merely a biographical and critical account of one of the acknowledged masters of French painting, but a comprehensive consideration of an entire school. As such it leaves little to be desired by either the special student or the general reader. The work is copiously and admirably illustrated.

✱ Candace Wheeler in "Principles of Home Decoration," published by Doubleday, Page & Co., has essayed to explain an art which, as she rightly says, has few masters. Considering the contrariety of opinions and practices regarding the application of the principles of beauty and propriety to home life, the enterprise was an ambitious one, and it should be said that the author has acquitted herself of her task in a fairly satisfactory manner.

We in America have no leader in decoration whose dictum may be accepted as law, and indeed our text-books on the subject are yet to be written. The student must glean knowledge from various sources, shape it into rules, and then, in actual practice, achieve triumph or suffer disaster according to results. The author rightly contends that an art dependent upon other arts, as decoration is upon building and architecture, is bound to follow the principles which

govern them. We must base our work upon what has already been done, select our decorative forms for appropriate periods, conform our use of color to the principles of color, and be able to choose and apply all manufactures in accordance with the great law of appropriateness.

In pursuance of these general principles the author considers the whole province of the home, from the structure and character of the houses in which we dwell to the conveniences and necessities with which we equip them, and the decorations with which we embellish them. Not merely is special attention given to color, as a science, and to the law of appropriateness, but practical applications are made of the principles enunciated. The reader is thus given sound theories as to home decoration, and is also furnished with workable directions calculated to remove the glaring defects of the average present-day home.

✿ Parts II. and III. of "Representative Work of Our Time," published by John Lane, fully maintain the promise of the first part, both as regards the quality of the letter-press and as regards the sumptuous character of the illustrations. The second part contains an essay on artistic lithography by Joseph Pennell, and choice reproductions of work by Max Pietschmann, Albert Goodwin, F. E. László, Frank Brangwyn, L. Lévy-Dhurmer, and Herbert Marshall. In the third part is an essay on the future of oil-painting by Percy Bate, together with reproductions of original works by Fred Burridge, E. A. Hornel, H. H. LaThangue, Fritz Thaulow, H. E. Le Sidaner, and E. A. Waterlow. The text of both parts is valuable, and the pictorial features have never been excelled in a work of a similar character.

✿ "Silver Work and Jewelry," by H. Wilson, appears as the second volume of D. Appleton & Co.'s Artistic Craft Series of Technical Handbooks, issued under the general editorship of W. R. Lethaby. The purpose of this volume, as of the preceding one, is to supply a trustworthy text-book of workshop practice, in which theory is subordinated to the actual experiences of the shop.

The book does not deal with the history of the jeweler's art. It is intended as a practical guide to some of the more simple processes of the craft. The author has studiously sought to avoid the vagueness so often characteristic of text-books by describing the operations of each process consecutively from beginning to end. This method of procedure necessarily involves more or less repetition, but this the student will cheerfully pardon on account of the added clearness with which the various processes employed by the silversmith are presented.

For the most part the various chapters are written around diagrams, which are inserted in the text; and which, in most cases, have been drawn from work actually carried out. There is no effort on the part of the author to impose conceptions of design upon the student, but only to describe methods which have been found to give the best

results in the shop. There is ample discussion of materials, tools, different processes, the manufacture of special articles, etc. The work is not meant for popular reading, but the needs of the student who wishes only a general knowledge of this most fascinating art are as carefully considered as are the requirements of the specialist and the practical worker.

✱ "Musical Pastels," by George P. Upton, from the press of A. C. McClurg & Co., is a collection of ten charming essays that will appeal to all who appreciate the literature of music as well as its art. It has been the purpose of the author to present a series of sketches based upon material found in his own musical library, setting forth certain rare musical events which may have a general interest for all readers, and which may not be entirely familiar even to musical students.

The author modestly disclaims original creation. He carefully points out that others have furnished the subjects and materials, and that he has only made the selections, keeping harmony in view, putting on the color as attractively as was within his skill, and trusting that what was a labor of love to him might be a source of pleasure and perhaps of profit to the reader. The contents of the book are varied, and the different chapters have a personal note that makes them especially delightful reading.

✱ Arthur Jerome Eddy, in "Delight the Soul of Art," published by the J. B. Lippincott Company, has wisely made an appeal to a wider audience by incorporating in book form five lectures formerly delivered as a series. The author contends, as the title of his book implies, that delight is the soul of art, a theory which he unfolds and defends with cogent reasoning and an abundance of illustration. This general dictum is further elaborated by special discussions as regards delight in the thought—sincerity, conviction, and inspiration; delight in the symbol—expression; and delight in labor—the end. The author has preserved the directness of address of the original lecture; and the grace and force of diction make the volume charming, as well as valuable, reading. One may not agree with Mr. Eddy in all his statements and conclusions, but his work merits the closest perusal.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

"Representative Art of Our Time," Parts II. and III. Edited by Charles Holme. John Lane. \$1 net each.

"Art in the Nineteenth Century," by Charles Waldstein. The Macmillan Company. 60 cents.

"The Burton Holmes Lectures," by Burton Holmes. The Little-Preston Company, Limited. 10 vols. \$52.

"Millionaire Households," by Mary E. Carter. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.40 net.